

St Mary's Nursery

St. Marys First School, Hencotes, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 2EE



Inspection date	10 April 2018
Previous inspection date	5 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The dedicated managers work well together to manage an enthusiastic staff team. They have clear expectations which they share effectively with all staff. Parents are happy with the service provided.
- Staff successfully involve parents in their children's learning. For example, they invite parents into the nursery to regularly review learning and development, and offer suggestions for activities to continue children's learning at home.
- Staff support children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities very well through highly effective partnerships with parents and other professionals. They make learning enjoyable and children enjoy taking part in the activities on offer. This helps children to make good progress in their learning.
- Staff promote children's emotional well-being effectively. Children are confident, self-assured and form good bonds with staff. Children thoroughly enjoy the time they spend at this welcoming and friendly nursery.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes, the planned next steps in younger children's learning are too broad. This means staff are not able to plan precisely enough to help them make the best possible progress.
- Occasionally, staff do not consistently take full advantage of opportunities to enhance younger children's speaking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- plan even more precisely for younger children's learning so that they make the best possible progress
- make the most of opportunities that arise to help younger children to practise and extend their early speaking skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with staff and children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager for early years.
- The inspector held a meeting with the nursery manager and provider. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of staff working in the nursery.
- The inspector spoke to a number of parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The management team makes sure that staff have a secure understanding of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child in their care. For example, they hold regular discussions, quizzes and training to keep staff up to date. Staff make regular checks to ensure the security of the premises is safe and they supervise children and visitors well. Systems for checking staff performance and supervision are good and contribute to identifying specific training needs. For example, the manager is currently supporting staff who are pursuing higher qualifications to improve their expertise even more. The management team monitors children's learning carefully to help identify any gaps in their development. They work closely with staff and parents to evaluate the quality of the provision and identify areas for improvement.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Staff gather information from parents about what their children know, can do and need to learn next. They use this information along with their ongoing observations to establish children's starting points in their learning. Staff provide enjoyable ways for children to develop mathematical knowledge. For example, one member of staff works with a small group of children skilfully, encouraging them to identify, match and talk about shapes. Rhymes and counting songs are used well to reinforce children's understanding of numbers. Staff follow children's individual interests and provide activities and experiences that motivate children to learn, overall. For example, young children delight in exploring interactive toys. Older children show that they have a good imagination and are building good muscle control. They eagerly roll and manipulate dough with their fingers, shaping it with their palms to make pretend cherry cakes.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enter the nursery full of enthusiasm and quickly settle into play. They make independent choices about what they want to do and staff are close at hand to support and extend their play. Children behave well and play cooperatively. Staff act as good role models for children and they learn to be tolerant and respectful towards one another as staff encourage them to use their manners. Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy. For example, they benefit from plenty of physical activity, and enjoy nutritious meals and snacks.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including funded children, develop skills that prepare them well for their future learning and school. Older children are confident and articulate communicators and gain good listening and attention skills. All children display high levels of self-confidence and positive social skills. Older children count and use good mathematical language to describe the shapes of objects in the environment. Children have plenty of opportunities to make marks, such as painting and drawing. Older children understand why they have to follow rules when using woodwork tools to help keep them safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	301777
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	1090533
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Day care type	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	49
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	St.Mary's Nursery (Hexham) Limited
Registered person unique reference number	RP518694
Date of previous inspection	5 June 2015
Telephone number	01434 608723

St Mary's Nursery registered in 2000. The nursery employs 10 members of staff. Of these, one holds qualified teacher status, one holds a childcare qualification at level 4, four hold childcare qualifications at level 3 and four at level 2. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The nursery provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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